

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 103

By Black

A RESOLUTION relative to establishing an integrated stroke care system in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, according to the American Stroke Association, strokes are the third leading cause of death in the United States, striking about 700,000 Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability in the United States, with about 4.8 million stroke survivors today; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the estimated direct and indirect cost of stroke was approximately 53.6 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Science has concluded that the fragmentation of the delivery of health care services frequently results in sub-optimal treatment, safety concerns, and inefficient use of health care resources; and

WHEREAS, the IOM has recommended the establishment of coordinated systems of care that integrate preventative and treatment services and promote patient access to evidence-based care; and

WHEREAS, according to research conducted by the American Stroke Association, a systems approach is necessary to effectuate true change in the way stroke is treated statewide, so that patients have access to the most advanced treatment in centers that are best designed and equipped to deal with the critical and time sensitive needs of stroke patients; and

WHEREAS, the main purpose of stroke systems legislation is to establish a systems approach to dealing with stroke patients, including assessing center designations, EMS protocols and field triage, inter-facility stroke transfer, and stroke data collection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that this Body hereby pledges its long-term commitment to establishing an integrated statewide system of stroke care for Tennesseans who have been stricken by stroke.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.